



SEMS DocID

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ORIGINAL  
(Red)

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region III  
841 Chestnut Building  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

SUBJECT: Valley Forge Army Hospital

Date:

5/24/90

From: Lynnette Elser, SIO *PEH*  
Pre-Remedial Section (3HW13)

To: Hank Sokolowski, Chief  
Federal Facilities Section (3HW26)

Thru: Ben Mykijewycz, Chief  
Pre-Remedial Section (3HW13)

As discussed on May 21, 1990, the Pre-Remedial Section is writing this letter in order to facilitate a smooth transfer of the subject site to the Federal Facilities Section. This letter, along with the accompanying attachments, will provide the Federal Facilities Section with all the information in the Pre-Remedial Section's possession.

Attached are letters from Theodore Ryan a supervisor with Schuylkill Township, a few newspaper articles, analytical results of sampling performed for the Phoenixville Area School District, a summary sheet dated 5-10-90 and the Congressional inquiry that identified the subject site.

The following individuals are contacts for the site:

*Check to see if  
wants Press  
Release.*

\* Theodore J. Ryan  
Supervisor, Schuylkill Township  
(b) (6)  
Township Building 933-5843  
or 933-5844

*Wants to take  
photos. If have  
to go in level B she  
must be notified  
I have before.  
Will accept the photo log  
ward 5/24/90. When  
upgrade begins are.*

\* Lisa Scheid  
Evening Phoenix newspaper  
(215) 933-8926

\* Lloyd Schell  
U. S. Army Corp. Eng. (exfed. facs.)  
FTS 504-4694

\* Dawn Ioven  
Toxicologist, Site Support Section, EPA  
xl309

*meeting in front of Bus garage at 9:00*

\* Al Brown  
Public Affairs, EPA  
x6925

The Pre-Remedial Section reached an agreement with Mr. Ryan, Lisa Scheid and Lloyd Schell that the EPA would contact them if there was any new information. This eliminated their daily calls to EPA to determine the sites current development.

(b) (6) is an attorney that is considering representing an ex-student of Valley Forge Christian College. The student developed a rare form of cancer that is caused by radiation. He was told that EPA has no evidence of radiation problems at the site at this time. He may call when EPA has completed more of its investigation. He believes that the "chemicals" he read about in the newspaper may be radioactive.

The following is additional information not included in the 5-10-90 Summary sheet:

\* As discussed on May 21, 1990, the Pre-Remedial Section's contractor, NUS Corporation, will complete a PA at the subject site. This will include a site visit on May 29, 1990. [Redacted] is the project manager for this report. Feel free to call [Redacted] for any information concerning the site or the status of the report. In order to allow NUS Corporation to conduct a site visit without the media present the Pre-Remedial Section has stated that a press release would be issued concerning the site visit after the site visit was complete. This press release would be in writing. Lisa Scheid would like the press release faxed to her. Please call her for the fax number. Lisa Cunningham of the Federal Facilities Section was notified of this agreement and told that Al Brown could assist her in preparing a press release. When the draft PA is completed it will be given to the Federal Facilities Section for review before it is finalized.

\* The property that was Valley Forge General Hospital was, upon the hospitals closure, divided into 3 parts. Each part was given oversight by a federal agency. The Office of Education was given a parcel which they gave to Valley Forge Christian Academy (a college), Phoenixville Area School District (to build a school) and Community Service Providers of Exton (1 acre parcel to provide services for handicapped people.) These 3 organizations received the land providing that the land is used for educational purposes for 30 years. Any portion of the property that is not used for educational purposes will revert back to the Office of Education. The Department of the Interior, National Park Services was given an approximately 50 acre parcel of the property which is overseen by the Township of Charlestown with the contingency that the property is used for recreational

purposes only. The Township of Charlestown leases their portion to BMX Bike Club and Phoenixville Area Soccer Club. It is believed that the Department of the Interior maintains ownership and only the governing oversight was transferred to the Township of Charlestown. The third portion is believed to be owned by GSA, and through the Department of Health and Human Services an unknown organization concerned with the homeless is to develop the property for use.

\* The soccer club that leases property from the Township of Charlestown tested the soil in the soccer field and found "no high levels of toxics" based upon conversations with Lisa Scheid and NUS Corporation.

\* Army Corps of Engineers will visit the site 5-24-90 to assess the chemicals on-site.

\* The old bowling alley (Community Services Providers portion) is believed to have old transformers in it based on information from NUS Corporation.

\* The "chemicals" in the old psychology ward consist of 2-3 twenty ounce containers of cyanide and an unknown number of drums with unknown contents. This building was boarded up when the chemicals were found. This information was provided by the Army Corps. of Engineers.

\* Many of the buildings on the college property are contaminated with asbestos as indicated by NUS Corporation.

Unless we hear otherwise we will let the Federal Facilities Section take the lead on this site.

CHESTER COUNTY

# Schuylkill Township

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ORIGINAL  
(Red)

April 3, 1990

Dr. John Maher, Director  
Chester County Health Department  
326 North Walnut Street  
West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380

Subject: Report of Hodgkins Disease - Schuylkill Township

Dear Dr. Maher:

Confirming our telephone conversation this date, I wish to bring the following information to your attention.

A resident of Schuylkill Township, (b) (6) of (b) (6) advised our township clerk on 29 March, 1990, that there have been several cases of Hodgkins Disease occurring, over several years, in the same general location (b) (6) within Schuylkill Township, Chester County. (b) (6) requested that some action be taken by township officials. A copy of the memo prepared by our Township Clerk, documenting (b) (6) request, is attached.

The memo refers to a (b) (6), one of the people directly concerned. Her present address is: (b) (6)

Although I cannot say there is any connection to the subject of concern, at our March 1990 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, a township resident, (b) (6) (b) (6) publicly stated that there have been reports of contamination of the grounds at the site of the former Valley Forge General Hospital. The site is now occupied by the Valley Forge Christian College and is adjacent to the area known as (b) (6)

There is genuine concern on the part of several residents of Evergreen Acres that some potentially hazardous health condition exists that may be responsible for the cases of Hodgkins Disease that have been reported.

The Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township wishes to officially notify you, Dr. Maher, of the situation and to request your immediate attention to the matter. I will appreciate your prompt acknowledgement of this letter and your follow-up plans.

ORIGINAL  
(Red)

Dr. John Maher, Director  
Chester County Health Department  
326 North Walnut Street  
West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380

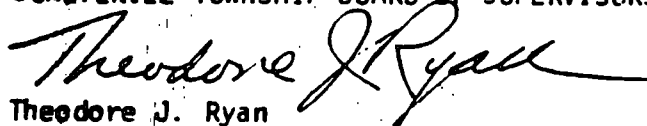
April 3, 1990

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We shall await hearing from you.

Very truly yours,

SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Theodore J. Ryan  
Supervisor

Attachment: Memo

Copies to Board of Supervisors  
Mrs. Dorothy Guerra  
Dr. Joseph Weinstock  
Mrs. James Kurtz

SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
801 Valley Park Road  
Phoenixville, PA 19460

ORIGINAL  
(Red)

Ms. Lynette Elser - 3HW13  
Site Investigation Officer  
Environmental Protection Agency  
841 Chestnut Building  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

2 May 1990

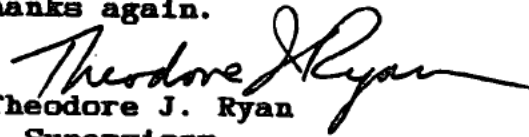
Subject: Valley Forge General Hospital contamination

Dear Ms. Elser,

Confirming our telephone conversation this morning I have enclosed some press clippings, memoranda, letters, map, and a complete copy of the laboratory report commissioned by the Phoenixville Area School District.

As I stated, there are now six diagnosed cases of Hodgkins disease clustered in the area immediately adjacent to the contamination site. The residents of the area and the township are extremely concerned about the apparent health risks. Any information about the status of the investigation that I can obtain will be passed along immediately.

As the designated "point man" for the Schuylkill Township Board of Supervisors in this emergency, I want to maintain a continuing contact with you for prompt exchange of information no matter how minimal it may seem. Our residents are our first concern and deserve to be kept informed as the investigation continues. Your offer to assist in this task is greatly appreciated. I may be reached at home (b)(6) or at the Township building at 933-5843 or 5844. Thanks again.

  
Theodore J. Ryan  
Supervisor

Schuylkill Township

Enclosures:

*Called Ted  
5-17/90  
concerning  
site visit tentatively  
set for May 29th*



Dr. S. S. 2:  
L. 11/11/90

May 7, 1990

I met with Henry Sokolowski (597-9809) to discuss Valley Forge Army Hospital site. I told him about the Army Corps of Engineers involvement & their concern that it was a federal site & EPA may be violating an inter agency agreement by doing a PA. He said that he believed there was an agreement for ex-fed. facs., Pre-remedial could continue its investigation & Corps of Eng. could call him to discuss any differences of opinion concerning the inter agency agreement.

I called Lloyd Idell (202-504-4694) of Corps. & left a message on his answering machine.